

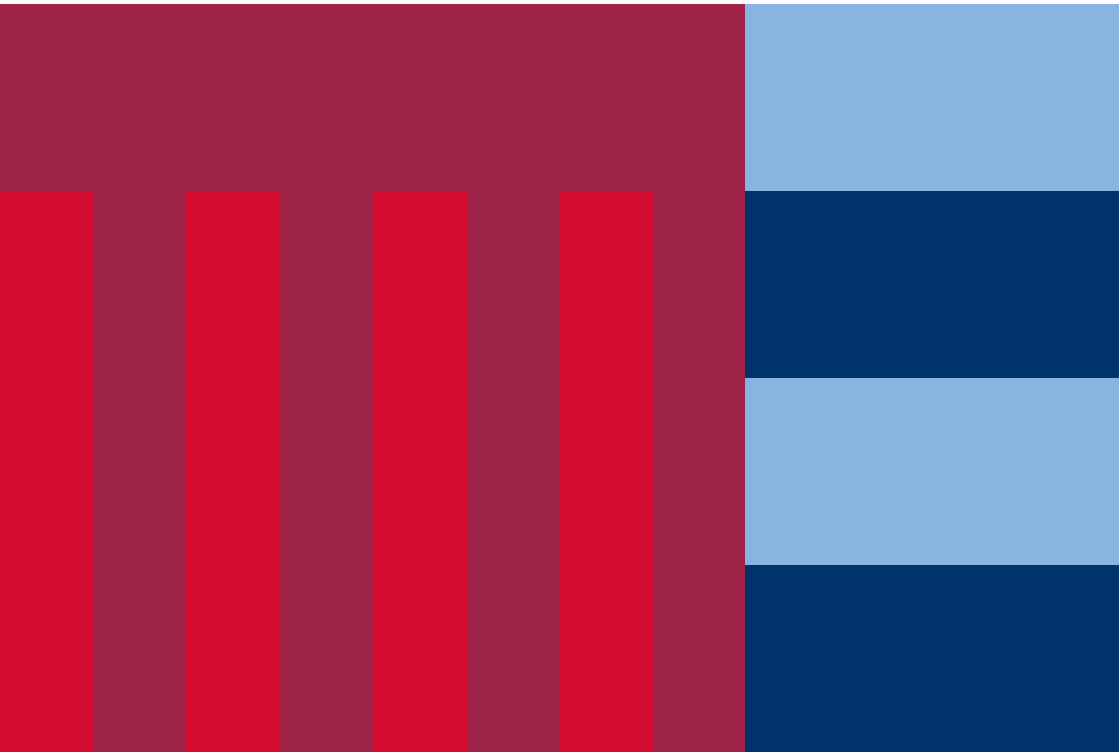


Universität  
Bremen

EU Research Funding:

# Horizon Europe

EU Research Framework Program 2021 – 2027



## Table of contents

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<b>1. Welcome</b>	<b>4</b>
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<b>2. A brief overview of Horizon Europe</b>	<b>6</b>
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2.1	What is Horizon Europe?	6
2.2	Who can participate in Horizon Europe proposals?	9
2.3	Current calls	9
2.4	Project duration and required number of partners	10
2.5	Funding quotas	10
2.6	ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie funding in the spotlight	11
2.6.1	ERC	11
2.6.2	Marie Skłodowska-Curie	13

---

<b>3. Submission of proposals</b>	<b>16</b>
-----------------------------------	-----------

---

3.1	How can I apply?	16
3.2	What else must be taken into account?	17
3.3	Become an evaluator	17
3.4	Other funding opportunities	17

<b>4. Advisory and support services</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>5. Successful applications</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6. Strategic international partnerships</b>	<b>22</b>
6.1 YERUN – Young European Research Universities Network	22
6.2 YUFE – Young Universities for the Future of Europe	23
6.3 Bremen – Cardiff Alliance	25
<b>7. Outlook and motivation</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>8. Contacts in unit 12 research services</b>	<b>26</b>

## 1. Welcome



**Dear researchers,**

I am pleased that you are interested in „Horizon Europe“.

The European Union's current funding program for research and innovation was launched two years ago. At the University of Bremen, we can already draw a positive intermediate conclusion after two years: „Horizon Europe“ already funds numerous research projects at our institution, both large collaborative projects with local, European and international partners as well as individual initiatives.

The University of Bremen can thus continue a development that began many years ago, as Bremen researchers were also highly successful in previous programs.

In this context, it is a particular pleasure for me to present this booklet to you in a second, updated edition. The booklet was developed at the University of Bremen to provide you with a compact overview of the diverse funding opportunities offered by „Horizon Europe“.

The European Union's funding program is open to scientists from a wide range of disciplines and career stages. Therefore, I would like to encourage you to actively participate in „Horizon Europe“, based on your individual interests and regardless of your previous experience.

„Horizon Europe“ places particular emphasis on research projects that address current societal issues in the areas of culture, health, the environment, digitization, and transport. These areas are well aligned with current projects and research expertise at the University of Bremen – not only matching the EU funding focus scientifically, but also tying in our mission of conducting fundamental as well as applied research, outside the „ivory tower.“

I am certain that we will succeed in building on our good experience with EU funding and exploit the potential of the new call for exciting new research projects, carried out together with our cooperation partners from Bremen, Europe and all over the world.

Our EU advisors of the Research Services at the University of Bremen will be happy to support you in finding a funding format that fits your personal profile and needs.

You are also welcome to contact me directly with further questions and suggestions. I look forward to the exchange.



**Prof. Dr. Michal Kucera**

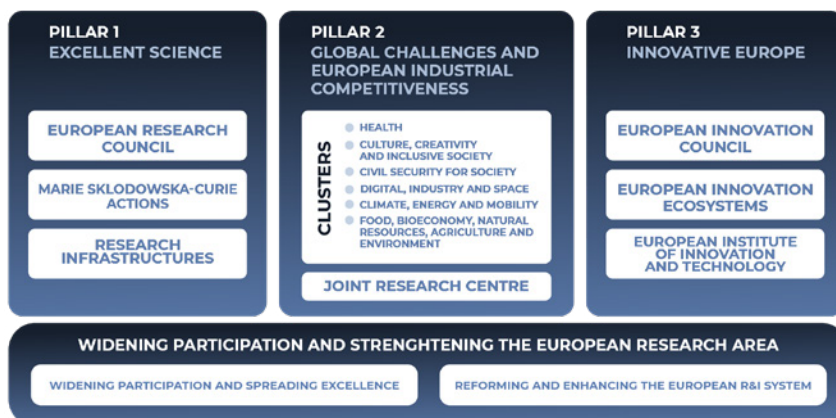
*Vice President for Research and Transfer*

## 2. A brief overview of Horizon Europe

### 2.1 What is Horizon Europe?

- Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding program for research and innovation and comprises all research and innovation funding instruments
- Objectives:
  - Realization of a knowledge- and innovation-based society
  - Realization of a competitive economy
  - To play a role in the solution of current societal challenges in Europe and beyond
- Timeframe 2021 – 2027
- Budget of around EUR 95 billion

### The Structure of the Horizon Europe Program



## **Pillar I – Excellent Science**

Predominantly bottom-up funding for individual researchers and research groups.

- **The European Research Council (ERC)** funds open-topic projects in frontier science conducted by excellent researchers at various career levels ; see section 2.6.1. for details.
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** are grants in the form of open-topic calls that foster the mobility, education, and career development of researchers in postdoctoral fellowships, and the exchange of staff; see section 2.6.2. for details.
- **Research infrastructures** serve the purpose of funding the establishment, maintenance and improvement of access to research infrastructures.

## **Pillar II – Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness**

**Top-down** managed joint projects should contribute to the solution of global challenges, the realization of sustainable development within the meaning of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, knowledge gained through research funding, and the fostering of all forms of innovation. The topics are concentrated into six clusters. They call for the interdisciplinary development of innovative solutions – wherever possible, with the involvement of the humanities and social sciences. Promising solutions must be tested, demonstrated, and upscaled.

### **Missions**

Missions are research and innovation instruments that address ambitious goals to meet current societal challenges in an interdisciplinary manner within a predefined period of time (max. ten years). The missions are split over five thematic areas (“Mission Areas”), and are anchored alongside the regular calls in the thematically relevant clusters in Pillar II of the framework program:

- Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation
- Cancer
- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters
- Climate-neutral and smart cities
- Soil Health and Food

### **Pillar III – Innovative Europe**

Both bottom-up and top-down managed joint projects for the promotion of all forms of innovation: from technological development, demonstration, and knowledge transfer to (market) maturity and launch. Correspondingly, it addresses small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which, in collaboration with researchers, can contribute to raising the levels of European innovation.

More detailed information about the three pillars, the missions, and the program areas horizontal to the pillars is provided on the websites of the EU-Bureau of the BMBF (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, in German only), the European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations – KoWi, and the European Commission:

[www.horizont-europa.de](http://www.horizont-europa.de)

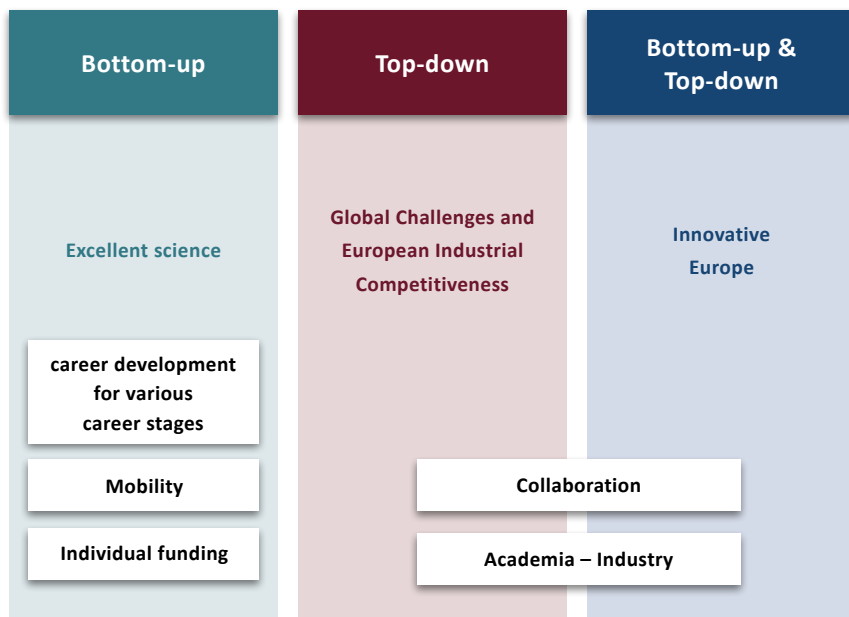
[www.kowi.de/en/kowi/Horizon-Europe/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-2.aspx](http://www.kowi.de/en/kowi/Horizon-Europe/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-2.aspx)

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en)



## 2.2 Who can apply to participate in the Horizon Europe program?

- Both individual researchers and research groups
- Participation depending on career level, project type and size of the project in individual funding and/or collaborative proposals
- Partners can be for example: Universities, research institutes, companies, associations
- Further criteria:
  - Is the object of the project idea basic research or applied research?
  - Is mobility funding the right form for ongoing career development?



## 2.3 Current Calls

Can be found in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal: The portal also provides a full text search function for all current calls in Horizon Europe. Further

information about the application process can be found in section 3.1. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon>

## 2.4 Project duration and required number of partners

A typical small to medium scale collaborative project usually takes two to four years; larger projects may take between three and five years. There are no formal limits. Good project planning must contain a sound time-frame with clearly defined milestones and objectives. The work programs with minimum and maximum budgets for projects can give an indication to an appropriate project timeframe.

How many partners and which countries should be involved depends on the orientation of the project in terms of content. Although there are no fixed limits for maximum duration, there are, as a rule, minimum requirements with regard to the number of partners and, in some cases, the types of organizations.

## 2.5 Funding rates

For universities, the Horizon Europe project funding rates for research and innovation actions (Research and Innovation Actions/RIA, collaborative research, ERC projects), innovation actions /IA, and coordination and support actions (CSA) for all organization types amount to 100 % of eligible direct costs (personnel costs, travel expenses, or costs for goods and services) plus a flat rate of 25 percent for indirect costs (overhead cost).

The rates may differ for other funding lines. In Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, for example, unit costs and lower indirect costs are paid.

The web pages of the EU Office of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research – BMBF (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, in German only) provide more detailed information about funding instruments and funding rates: [www.horizont-europa.de/de/Instrumente-1718.html](http://www.horizont-europa.de/de/Instrumente-1718.html)  
[www.horizont-europa.de/de/Finanzen-1728.html](http://www.horizont-europa.de/de/Finanzen-1728.html)  
[www.kowi.de/en/kowi/Horizon-Europe/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-2.aspx](http://www.kowi.de/en/kowi/Horizon-Europe/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-2.aspx)

## 2.6 ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie funding options in the spotlight

### 2.6.1 ERC

#### The Objective of Funding

The University Executive Board wishes to further internationalize the academic staff and motivate outstanding researchers to realize their excellent research projects at the University of Bremen. The funding opportunities offered by the European Research Council (ERC) are eminently suitable for this.

**The mission of the ERC is to strengthen the dynamism, creativity, and scientific excellence of European research on the following principles and to ensure that the world's best researchers conduct their research projects in Europe:**

- Scientific autonomy
- Fostering of excellent and innovative frontier research
- Scientific excellence is the sole criterion
- Applications can be made in any field of research, and the possibility of going beyond classical disciplinary boundaries (bottom-up (investigator-driven), therefore also an attractive option for the humanities and social sciences)
- Independent researchers of any nationality, age and career level can apply for funding, regardless of where they are currently employed
- Submission possible as sole applicant (= no consortia, no networks, no co-financing required)
- simple and transparent application procedure for attractive, long-term funding
- ERC projects are portable

#### ERC Funding Lines and Funding Conditions

- a. ERC Starting Grants address promising early-career researchers starting their own, independent careers and wishing to set up their own research group.
- b. ERC Consolidator Grants address excellent researchers starting an independent career whose own independent research group is in the consolidation phase.

- c. The target group of ERC Advanced Grants are established, active researchers with an outstanding research track record in the last ten years.
- d. ERC Synergy Grants address teams of two to four promising researchers whose projects are expected to lead to discoveries at interfaces between established disciplines and substantial advances at the frontiers of science. Teams must be made up of excellent early-career researchers and established active researchers with a track record of outstanding scientific achievement.
- e. Researchers who already hold an ERC grant and would like to explore the commercial and social innovation potential of their running or recently completed project are eligible to apply for a proof-of-concept grant.

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant	Proof of Concept
Qualification	2-7 years after PhD	7-12 years after PhD	outstanding research track record over the past 10 years	Group with 2 to 4 excellent researchers	ERC grant holders
Funding	Up to EUR 1.5 million*	Up to EUR 2 million*	Up to EUR 2.5 million*	Up to EUR 10 million*	Up to EUR 150,000
Duration	Up to 5 years	Up to 5 years	Up to 5 years	Up to 6 years	Up to 18 months
Closing deadline	<a href="http://www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-starting-grants-2436.html">www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-starting-grants-2436.html</a>	<a href="http://www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-consolidator-grants-2449.html">www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-consolidator-grants-2449.html</a>	<a href="http://www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-advanced-grants-2450.html">www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-advanced-grants-2450.html</a>	<a href="http://www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-synergy-grants-2451.html">www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-synergy-grants-2451.html</a>	<a href="http://www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-proof-of-concept-2452.html">www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-proof-of-concept-2452.html</a>

\* Up to EUR 1 million (resp. EUR 4 million in Synergy Grants) additional funding possible  
[www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-2410.html](http://www.euburo.de/en/ncp-erc-2410.html)

#### **Why ERC proposals make good sense:**

- Manageable effort required for submission procedure
- High funding to secure the establishment of an own research group
- Accelerates career development
- No age limit (advantage over Emmy Noether/DFG)
- High appreciation of funding not only in higher education institutions
- ERC-Grants enhance the international visibility of the beneficiaries and their host institutions

## **2.6.2 Marie Skłodowska-Curie**

### **The Objectives of Funding**

At the University of Bremen, the key focus is set on the funding of researchers at the beginning their academic career. In the PhD and postdoc phases, mobility and the gathering of international experience should be enabled and appealingly structured. The objective of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for the promotion of the mobility of early-career researchers is to make Europe more attractive for researchers. They are successfully proven instruments for the promotion of mobility and enhancing attractiveness to international applicants. In addition to working in another country, mobility always sets its sights on interdisciplinary exchange and the gathering of intersectoral experience in other organizations or enterprises to assure optimal fostering of competencies and careers.

#### **The Four MSCA Funding Lines Focus on:**

- Researchers and researcher education
- Career development
- Development of expertise
- Transnational mobility
- Intersectoral mobility

## MSCA Funding Lines and Funding Conditions

- a. **Doctoral Networks (DN)** including industrial doctorates and joint doctorates offer a structured doctoral education within the European network.
- b. **Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)** enable candidates to apply for a temporary position abroad within the European Fellowship or Global Fellowship; refer to the text field European Fellowship / Global Fellowship for details.
- c. **Staff Exchange (SE)** strengthens international connections through the exchange of personnel with European and international partners.
- d. **COFUND** enables co-financing for regional, national and international PhD or post-doctoral programs.

European Fellowship (EF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Research stay in Europe</li><li>- Post-doctoral researchers of any nationality, up to 8 years after PhD</li><li>- 12 – 24 months in a member state or associated country</li></ul>
Global Fellowship (GF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Research stay outside Europe (with mandatory return phase)</li><li>- Post-doctoral researchers up to 8 years after PhD, nationals of a member state or associated country, or long-term research residency in Europe (&gt;= 5 years, uninterrupted)</li><li>- 12 – 24 months in a non-associated third country + 12-month mandatory return to Europe (member state or associated country)</li></ul>
Closing date	<p><b>Annually in September</b> <a href="https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/funding?">https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/funding?</a></p>

**Why is a Postdoctoral Fellowship so attractive for early-career researchers?**

- Application for a temporary position abroad for up to two years
- International renown for beneficiaries of funding and host institutions, high visibility
- Disciplinary and supra-disciplinary career development as an essential aspect of the application
- Excellent international networking opportunities in early phases of career development

The University of Bremen concludes full TV-L 13 employment agreements with MSCA fellows (TV-L 13 = remuneration grade 13 for German civil servants). Potential differences between the unit costs paid by the EU and TV-L 13 remuneration must be financed by the hosting faculty of the University of Bremen. The state of Bremen co-finances part of the difference in order to support the Europeanization of young scientists and the implementation of the framework for good employment conditions.

Before participating in EU MSCA programs, hosting faculties of the university must first determine whether they can finance the co-payment.

For further information, please contact: [eu@vw.uni-bremen.de](mailto:eu@vw.uni-bremen.de)

### 3. Submission of proposals

#### 3.1 How can I apply?

**1. Registration** in the Funding & Tenders-Portal: Before participants can actively use the portal, they must register only once by entering their name and valid e-mail address in the EU login function of the Funding & Tenders-Portal. By entering your password and e-mail address, you have personal access to the portal for an overview of all open and forthcoming calls for proposals, as well as for project realization in Horizon Europe.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/eim/external/register.cgi>

University of Bremen: data for the electronic submission of proposals in Horizon Europe	
PIC (Participant Identity Code)	999987454
Organization short name	UBremen
Lear	Silke Reinold, sreinold@uni-bremen.de

**2. Read the work program and other relevant documents:** All the necessary documents are available in the Funding & Tenders-Portal. In addition, all proposals must be submitted via the portal, and, if successful, the portal must be used for the preparation of grant agreements and contracts and all other administrative and project management tasks.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON>

**3. Contact the University of Bremen EU Advisory Service** for practical assistance with the submission of your proposal. You can find details of the services offered by the EU Advisory Service in section 4. It also helps you to find the contact persons you can consult in other administrative units of the university.

**4. Timing:** Calls open around five months before the proposal submission deadline. The respective work programs are publicized before the opening of the call. They precisely describe the funding requirements and objectives and thus enable timely project planning.



The EU Commission stipulates a period of eight months after submission of the proposal for assessment, including all procedures required for the preparation of the contract (time to grant).

### 3.2 What else must be taken into account?

In compliance with EU policies, each proposal must take into account and address further aspects such as open access / open data, ethical requirements and the gender equality plan (GEP).

Information about requirements can be found on the website (currently in German only):

- Factsheet Open Access/Open Data [www.uni-bremen.de/en/research/support-for-researchers/foerderberatung](http://www.uni-bremen.de/en/research/support-for-researchers/foerderberatung)
- Code of Ethics [www.uni-bremen.de/en/research/support-for-researchers/foerderberatung/our-counselling-service-on-funding-provided-by-the-european-union](http://www.uni-bremen.de/en/research/support-for-researchers/foerderberatung/our-counselling-service-on-funding-provided-by-the-european-union)

Further stages of the proposal submission process and ongoing projects are supported by various Administrative Units of the University. The respective research groups are fundamentally responsible for project management.

Details of our advisory and support services can be found in section 4.

### 3.3 Work as an expert

Horizon Europe, the EU Research and Innovation program appoints external experts to assist in the evaluation of grant applications. You can register as an expert in the European Commission's database of external experts at any time. In view of the complexity of the program and open calls, the Commission is always looking for experts with a wide range of disciplinary, institutional, and professional backgrounds, as well as experts with appropriate insights. Working as an expert or evaluator provides excellent insights into the processes of evaluation, and can be helpful for persons planning to submit their own proposals and tenders in the future.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert>

### 3.4 Other funding opportunities

1. The website "Other Funding Opportunities" provides a bundled overview of additional competitive calls and calls for third parties submit-

ted by public-public partnerships from several member states of the EU, joint technology initiatives (JTI), co-funding activities (ERA-NETs, European Joint Programs), and other EU or national programs.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/other-funding>

2. Some currently funded EU research projects submit calls to recruit additional partners (e.g. end-users, platform providers). Such calls for third-party involvement apply in particular to ICT (information and communication technology) projects. These calls can be found in the European Commission Funding & Tenders Portal under the keyword “Open competitive calls and calls for third parties”.  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls>
  
3. Awarding of EU calls for tenders: The European Commission also publishes calls for tenders concerning service contracts in the Funding & Tenders Portal. These are processed in accordance with the guidelines and regulations applicable to public procurement and are fundamentally different from calls for the submission of project proposals. The provision of services and agreements for the provision of resources, goods, or services by third parties, e.g. studies and analyses relating to specific and current issues, the organization and conducting of conferences, workshops, and other meetings that address topics relevant to European collaborative research.  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/tenders>

Current tenders can be found under “Tenders” in the Funding & Tenders Portal. The portal also offers a keyword search function.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=:matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=0;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programmeCcm2Id=null;programmeDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;geo-graphicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;order-By=asc;onlyTenders=true;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

## 4. Advisory and support services

The University of Bremen EU Advisory Service proposes suitable funding opportunities individually, supports during the preparation of proposals, budget calculation, contract preparation, and in the course of the project.

You can find more detailed information about our services and the other stakeholders in university administration who can provide support during the process of submitting an application and the course of a project, as well as links to national advisory services offered by national points of contact and the European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (“KoWi”) in Bonn and Brussels on our website at: [www.uni-bremen.de/en/research/support-for-researchers/foerderberatung/our-advisory-services-for-funding-provided-by-the-eu](http://www.uni-bremen.de/en/research/support-for-researchers/foerderberatung/our-advisory-services-for-funding-provided-by-the-eu)

**Seed funding for new collaborative projects** The University’s Central Research Development Fund (CRDF) supports the submission of applications in coordinated programs and the necessary preparatory work. Promising initiatives, for instance for proposals relating to EU collaborative projects, should be supported in the early stages of preparation (currently in German only).

[www.uni-bremen.de/forschung/foerderangebote-service/ausschreibungen/zentrale-forschungsfoerderung-zf/07-verbundvorhaben](http://www.uni-bremen.de/forschung/foerderangebote-service/ausschreibungen/zentrale-forschungsfoerderung-zf/07-verbundvorhaben)

**Project management** for larger collaborative projects is a challenging task that must be carried out in the respective research groups. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the EU Advisory Service for expert support based on many years of experience.

## 5. Successful applications

Since many years, the University of Bremen successfully raises funds from the EU Research Framework Programs. Some examples of projects from different funding lines in Horizon Europe, raised by outstanding scientists of different faculties, demonstrate the relevance of EU funding for research at the University of Bremen. They stress the potential for future EU funding success thus singling out further scientific excellence at the University of Bremen.

Following examples from the Horizon Europe categories **Excellent Science** and **Innovative Europe** demonstrate the success obtaining EU funding at the University of Bremen.

### **Excellent Science: ERC**

In 2022, two prestigious ERC grants were awarded to scientists from the University of Bremen:

In the ERC Consolidator Grant research project „*InOGeM: Indirect Optical Geometry Measurement*“, **Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer** and his research group at the Bremen Institute for Metrology, Automation and Quality Science (BIMAQ) work on a paradigm shift for the non-contact, precise measurement of component geometries. In order to circumvent the limitations of classic optical measurement principles, Prof. Andreas Fischer is conducting research in the ERC project on the indirect measurement, i.e. the optical detection of the component's imprint in the surrounding air. Thus, the ERC-funded project aims to develop the fundamentals and potential of a new class of measuring instruments, to break new grounds in the field of optical geometry measurements, as well as to explore a wide range of applications.

Together with his team biochemist **Prof. Dr. Jan-Hendrik Hehemann** will investigate the molecular mechanism of carbon (dioxide) storage by algae in the ocean in his ERC Consolidator Grant „*Discover molecular pathways for glyco-carbon sequestration*“ (C-Quest). C-Quest postulates that particular polysaccharides from algae form a carbon sink in the ocean. Using innovative methods, molecular principles will be uncovered that govern carbon sequestration in and beyond the ocean.

### **Excellent Science: Marie Skłodowska-Curie: Postdoctoral Fellowships**

One of the prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships was awarded to marine scientist **Dr. Flavia Boscolo-Galazzo** for her project „*Microfossils and data science: a new approach to infer the impact of global climate on plankton Macroecology*“ (*MICRO2MACRO*). During this project, carried out at the MARUM - Center for Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Bremen, Dr. Boscolo-Galazzo will collect data using the microfossil record of planktonic foraminifera from the International Ocean Discovery Program drill core samples of the past to help understanding the fate of our oceans and marine ecosystems under on-going climate change.

### **Innovative Europe: European Innovation Council (EIC)**

Biologist **Prof. Dr. Rita Groß-Hardt** has obtained her transition project „*3P-Tec: Three-parent breeding technology for plants of the future*“ in the prestigious funding line of the European Innovation Council. The project is based on her ERC Consolidator Grant and ERC Proof of Concept Grant in Horizon 2020. Prof. Groß-Hardt and her team were able to show that a plant egg cell can fuse with two sperm cells and that this process can lead to the formation of plants with three parents, one mother and two fathers. Not only can this process combine the positive traits of three parents at once, but it can also bypass hybridization barriers. Three parent crosses thus have the potential to harness previously incompatible wild varieties that react more robustly to climatic changes and plant pests for plant breeding.

Building on the two ERC grants, their current EIC project „*3P-Tec*“, aims to develop this new plant breeding technology for a global market. By accelerating the market introduction of novel climate-resilient crops, „*3P-Tec*“ aims to contribute to a sustainable agricultural industry and increased food security. The EIC project is a successful example of cooperation between science and industry: project partners are the Dutch potato breeding specialist Aardevo and one of the world's leading plant breeding companies (KWS Saat SE & Co. KGaA).

An overview of projects at the University of Bremen funded in the Horizon Europe program is available online [www.uni-bremen.de/forschung/forschungseinrichtungen-projekte/foerderungen-der-eu](http://www.uni-bremen.de/forschung/forschungseinrichtungen-projekte/foerderungen-der-eu)

## 6. Strategic international partnerships

In its Strategy 2018 – 2028, the University of Bremen declared its intent to become one of Europe’s leading research universities. The networks Young Universities for the future of Europe (YUFE) and the Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN) play an essential role in the achievement of this objective.

Participation in the shaping of funding programs such as Horizon Europe and the framework conditions of the European Research Area, e.g. “Open Science, Open Innovation, Open to the World”, can only be successful in a strong network with other higher education institutions (HEIs) across Europe.

Since BREXIT, collaborative projects with partners in the United Kingdom are of particular importance to the University Executive Board. Our goal is to maintain the existing levels of collaboration and mobility with regard to our partners in the UK, despite the consequences of BREXIT.

These partnerships thrive on conducting collaborative research and developing joint research proposals. In order to develop collaborative research projects, it is essential that we find and get together with thematically appropriate partner institutions in the network. The network has an added value in achieving the strategic goals of the University of Bremen.

### 6.1 YERUN – Young European Research Universities Network

As a founding member of YERUN, the University of Bremen has been connected with universities at a European level since 2015. Universities that share the same values and are characterized by their powers of innovation, research and teaching excellence, and their commitment to interdisciplinary exchange and social responsibility. The network currently has a membership of 22 higher education institutions from 11 countries – all of them universities that were younger than 50 years old at the time they joined and were amongst the top 50 universities in the Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking of young universities. YERUN brings the concerns, perspectives, and strengths of young, high-profile research institutions into European discussions in order to ensure that their needs are consid-

ered within the European agenda. It strives to play a role in responses to the developmental challenges of European society by adopting a European perspective on global issues. The aim of the network is successful collaboration in joint research and teaching initiatives to maximize the mobility, research capacities, and employability of its graduates.

**The following universities are members in the network:**

- The German Universities of Bremen, Konstanz, and Ulm
- Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium)
- Syddansk Universiteit (Denmark)
- Dublin City University, University of Limerick (Ireland)
- University of Rijeka (Croatia)
- Universitat Autònoma de Madrid, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain)
- University of Eastern Finland
- Université Paris Dauphine (Paris Dauphine University, France)
- Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata (Italy)
- Universiteit Maastricht (Netherlands)
- Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Nova University Lisbon, Portugal)
- Brunel University London, University of Essex and University of Stirling (United Kingdom)
- University of Cyprus
- University of Klagenfurt (Austria)
- University of South Eastern Norway and The Arctic University of Norway (Norway)

<https://yerun.eu/about-us/#members>

## **6.2 YUFE – Young Universities for the Future of Europe**

The cooperation within YUFE started from the YERUN network founded as an alliance of young and innovative European universities. Other partners have joined the alliance, which is dedicated to the development of a young European university that is non-elitist, integrative, and participative. The alliance is motivated by the idea of closing the social divide and making Europe more accessible to its citizens. YUFE has set itself the goal of recognizing talent and creating opportunities for all Europeans, irrespective of their socio-economic or cultural background.

European career paths are open to all status groups of the member universities, whether they are experienced researchers, junior researchers,

or university staff working in management, administrative, or technical roles. YUFE also stands for close ties to the regions. All the universities work together with local enterprises, organizations of civil society, government, and administration to embody the European idea. Joint research and cooperation in teaching will contribute to the vision of realizing a European university in the years to come.

**The following universities are collaborating in the YUFE network:**

- Universiteit Maastricht (Netherlands)
- Nicolaus Copernicus University of Torun (Poland)
- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain)
- Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium)
- University of Bremen (Germany)
- University of Cyprus
- University of Eastern Finland
- University of Essex (United Kingdom)
- University of Rijeka (Croatia)

**Also integrated as associated partners:**

- The Adecco Group (France)
- ETS Global (France)

[www.yufe.eu](http://www.yufe.eu)

[www.uni-bremen.de/en/yufe](http://www.uni-bremen.de/en/yufe)



## 6.3 Bremen – Cardiff Allianz

The University of Bremen and Cardiff University have long-standing research ties. The alliance, established in 2019, reflects on shared strategic priorities. Whilst open for all areas to develop new collaborations, it is initially focussing on complementary research strengths in four specific areas: media and communication sciences; marine and environmental sciences; literary, social and historical studies; and semiconductor physics.

A unique aspect of the Bremen-Cardiff Alliance is the planned affiliation of academic staff members from one university to the other.

The Bremen-Cardiff Alliance includes a provision for staff and PhD student mobility through the establishment of a dedicated collaborative fund.

[www.uni-bremen.de/kooperationen/hochschulkooperationen/  
hochschulkooperationen-weltweit/strategische-partnerschaften/  
bremen-cardiff-alliance](http://www.uni-bremen.de/kooperationen/hochschulkooperationen/hochschulkooperationen-weltweit/strategische-partnerschaften/bremen-cardiff-alliance)

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/international/international-partnerships/  
university-of-bremen](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/international/international-partnerships/university-of-bremen)

## 7. Outlook and motivation

Not only through our appreciation for your efforts in writing research proposals, but also through tailored support, we would like to motivate you to submit proposals in Horizon Europe and other funding programs. Thus, we constantly work on the improvement of general conditions that enable researchers to do so. EU projects are an important building block for our university's excellence in research. Your suggestions on how our advisory and support services can be made even more effective helps us to improve our services.

## 8. Contacts in research services



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